

## HONORING ASHLEY PHILIPS

**HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2006*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ashley Philips, a young woman of enormous potential whose life was tragically cut much too short this past weekend.

Ashley Philips was a vibrant and ambitious young woman who seemed destined for success in whatever path she chose. She was an excellent student, having earned honors and achieved a superior grade point average at Tarpon Springs High in my hometown, where she participated in the veterinary program. She was a good athlete and ran track at school.

Ashley also was dedicated to her community. She volunteered to help local senior citizens, worked at an area day care, and interned in the city clerk's office in Oldsmar, FL, in my congressional district. She also was the granddaughter of two of my closest friends, Oldsmar Mayor Jerry Beverland and his wife, Wanda, and was to serve as my congressional page this summer. I know they and Ashley's mother, Hope, and brother, Austin, were proud of what she had already accomplished, and looked forward to all that was to come for this remarkable young woman.

Ashley also had daring dreams and lofty goals. She wanted to do so many things, including becoming a veterinarian, lawyer, photographer, and a writer. She no doubt would have achieved all that she had hoped. Her grandfather expressed how everyone feels, noting that she "was a brilliant girl with a brilliant future, snatched away in the blink of an eye."

Mr. Speaker, I grieve for Ashley's family and friends. They are really the only ones who can truly understand how special she was and know how greatly she will be missed. Her friends and family and those with whom she came into contact would surely agree that the world is a much better place for having had her in it, no matter however briefly. I pray that her memory, and the knowledge that she will live in eternal peace, will comfort those who cared for her in this time of great sadness and sorrow.

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 PAYING TRIBUTE TO MANUEL  
"MANNY" CORTEZ
**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Manuel Cortez for his outstanding service and memorable impact on the city of Las Vegas. Manuel passed away on Sunday, June 18, 2006 at the age of 67.

Manny, a resident of Las Vegas since 1944, was instrumental in making the city one of the world's top vacation destinations. When Manny took over the Convention Authority, Las Vegas had 73,730 hotel and motel rooms and two major convention centers, including the then-new Sands Exposition and Convention Center, which opened its first phase in late 1990. Las Vegas hosted approximately

21.3 million visitors in 1991, an early stage of what became an unprecedented era of local growth following The Mirage's 1989 debut. By the time that boom halted in summer 2000, Las Vegas had added multiple world-class resorts, including Bellagio, Mandalay Bay and The Venetian. Today, the city today boasts 129,475 rooms and three of the nation's largest convention centers.

In the period following the terrorist attacks of September 2001 and the subsequent U.S. economic slowdown, Manny oversaw a highly flexible marketing strategy that helped Las Vegas recover more quickly than many competing destinations. Part of Manny's advertising campaign included the forever popular tag line, "what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas."

On May 5, 2004, Manny resigned as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, a position he held for 13 years.

Manny served four terms as a Clark County Commissioner, beginning in 1976. He also served on the governing board of the University Medical Center, as well as the Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Metropolitan Police Department fiscal affairs boards. He was honored in 1999 by having a local elementary school named for him, and was also named Travel Agent Magazine's United States Person of the Year.

The most important part of Manny's life was his family. He leaves behind his loving wife of 45 years, Joanna Cortez; daughters, Cynthia Musgrove and her husband, Dan, and Catherine Cortez Masto and her husband, Paul; grandson, Andrew Musgrove; granddaughter, Christina Musgrove; mother, Mary Cortez; sister, Patricia Snider; aunt, Mary Tapia; and numerous nieces, nephews and in-laws. He was preceded in death by his father, Edward C. Cortez.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Manny Cortez on the floor of the House. He was a good friend who served the residents and guests of Las Vegas with honor, and he will be greatly missed.

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 TRIBUTE TO THE CHILDREN'S  
MUSICAL THEATER OF SAN JOSE
**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2006*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and commend the Children's Musical Theater of San Jose, CMT, for winning a National Endowment for the Arts, NEA, grant award. The Children's Musical Theater of San Jose was the only theater company in California—and the only children's theater nationwide—to receive the prestigious American Masterpieces Grant.

The Children's Musical Theater of San Jose trains and educates today's youth so that they will become the artists, patrons, and leaders of tomorrow. CMT combines a commitment to casting all auditioners with the professionalism of a premier children's theater. A vital ingredient to their success has been the leadership and vision of Artistic Director Kevin R. Hauge. Mr. Hauge is as interested in the development of his actors as he is in the production of theater; he continually works to augment the

interpersonal skills and self-confidence of the children while creating immensely popular performances.

I am proud to recognize the Children's Musical Theater for its great success in theater and in the development of its talented young actors. CMT is a deserving recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts American Masterpieces Grant. Artistic and creative innovation is part of what makes America a vibrant society, and I commend the Children's Musical Theater for their contribution to San Jose and our Nation's cultural wealth.

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 TRIBUTE TO THE VILLAGE OF  
PEOTONE, IL
**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2006*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Village of Peotone which is celebrating its 150th birthday. The Village of Peotone lies wholly within the 11th Congressional District in Illinois.

In 1856, the Illinois Central Railroad was completed. Land not held by the railroad was to be occupied by settlers. Thus, the Village of Peotone saw its first residents. Two years later the population of the town was 125 people and the first school began to teach classes in 1860. In 1869, you could find dirt streets, several homes and a few businesses. The first Village Board was also formed in 1869.

In 1871, Frederick Rathje and Christoph Elling agreed to construct a windmill to grind the grain from area farmers. In 1872, Frederick's son, H.A. Rathje built the Peotone Windmill. When the mill came into production it provided a variety of grain products such as fine wheat flour, rye, buckwheat flour, and cornmeal. The mill was also a primary source of feed for the local livestock industry. In 1982, Henry's grandson donated the mill and the land upon which it stands to the Village of Peotone. The H.A. Rathje is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Village of Peotone continued to grow and prosper. Many new businesses such as a photo gallery, an opera house, and blacksmith shop opened for business. Today, Peotone is a thriving community with over 3,385 residents and over 60 businesses located within the Village. The Village boasts the tranquility of a country life-style where the streets are wide, curbed and shaded with ancient trees of all varieties.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other communities in their own districts which can be shown as an example of living the American dream.

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 TRIBUTE TO PASTOR JERRY  
HATTER
**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2006*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life, service and example of Pastor Jerry Hatter. Pastor Hatter has found his home and place of service at the Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, in Ypsilanti, MI.